



## Highlights of Testimony to Michigan House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee

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There is a strong case to be made that the Detroit area is one of the current epicenters of innovation. The Michigan Science Center (MiSci) has been honored to be a part of Detroit's resurgence over the last five years impacting over 1 million visitors, and we are eager to attract visitors from all over Michigan, the Midwest region and across the Canadian border. ***Our vision is to enrich and empower all children and all communities with STEM.*** Our goal is to be Michigan's STEM Hub and we are making advancements every day to engage children and lifelong learners of all ages by increasing STEM access, exposure & interest.

### MiSci Key Initiatives:

#### 2) Re-imagining STEM Careers & Building the STEM Pipeline

- MiSci sparks kids' interest and imagination in STEM to understand why Math & Science matter, piques their curiosity and opens their minds to the possibilities of STEM careers.
- MiSci draws visitor with 4 theater spaces, 3 lab and challenge spaces, and more than 180 interactive, hands-on exhibits. Exhibition and space highlights include **the actual Apollo trainer module, compliments of NASA, and SparkLab inventor's lab through a partnership with the Smithsonian.**
- Our newest theater experience, built to inspire, is the **Toyota Engineering 4D Theater** that hosts shows and experiences that prepare our next generation of engineers, STEM professionals and top tech talent in Detroit. The experience draws visitor to MiSci to see compelling science movies, as well as use its interactive digital capabilities to engage with scientists wherever they are – such as this past summer's "visit" by astronauts across the country.

#### 1) Redefining our STEM Footprint

- More than 55,000 students visited MiSci in 2017 as part of school field trips
- We are able to extend MiSci's impact beyond our physical building. In 2017, MiSci served 50 counties in MI through our Traveling Science Program and **we can now reach all 83 counties via ECHO Distance Learning in partnership with ITC** to bring virtual field trips and interactive learning into the classroom.

#### 3) Engaging Audiences through Exhibitions, Adult Programming and More

- Hosted the **award-winning, "1001 Inventions" exhibition** attracting over nearly 60,000 visitors over 13-weeks. It inspired the study of our science heritage, promoted intercultural understanding and fostered mutual understanding and social inclusion. The exhibit brought more than 48,000 visitors to downtown Detroit and hosted an additional 10,000+ visitors from 16 states across the country and 12 countries across the world through virtual visits.
- **After Dark**, our monthly 21+ happy hour series for adults, offers fun scientific exploration and social networking for an average of 300 people per event.

4) **Building STEM Literacy in MI**

- **District-wide, grade-level adoption initiative** affords educational enhancement programs such as M-STEP Prep to assist teachers and build student confidence in preparation for this statewide assessment.
- To date, we have held grade wide adoption programs with 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Detroit Public School students and have been the science enrichment provider for the entire Holy Redeemer Middle School.
- Professional development workshops address the gap for non-Science specialty teachers
- We support families with **early learners through KidsTown**, our STEM exploration space for children 5 years and younger. MiSci recognizes that not only is it never too early to learn and engage with science, but also early childhood learn is essential for brain development and school readiness.

5) **Extending Reach through Access Programs**

With the help of our partners, we bring STEM to the masses.

-**The STEMinista Project**, breaks down barriers, defies statistics and raises expectations, by sparking and maintaining the interest in STEM in 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to broaden the pipeline of the next generation of women in STEM careers. A finalist for the US2020 Challenge in STEM, The STEMinista Project is a collaborative partnership with corporate, community and education partners.

-**Free general admission days** welcomed nearly 32,000 visitors to experience MiSci in 2017

-**Super Sparks** offers special needs families welcoming environment and critical resources.

